

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-4 (Cancelled).

5. (presently amended) A tourniquet article comprising:

A substantially rigid base;

a handle ~~having an aperture disposed therein~~; and

a strap in communication with said handle, the strap being engaged with said base at a first point upstream from said handle, ~~the strap passing through the aperture and said strap and being engaged with said base~~ and at a second point downstream from said handle such that said handle is maintained in a position relative to said substantially rigid base to reduce binding of said base when said handle is twisted.

6. (previously presented) The tourniquet article of claim 5 wherein the handle comprises a rod including notches disposed at first and second end portions.

7. (currently amended) The tourniquet article of claim 5 wherein said strap has a width of between about 1 inch and about 2.5 inches and ~~the~~ said handle includes an aperture that of said handle is slightly wider than said strap.

8. (currently amended) The tourniquet article of claim 5 7 wherein said strap passes through the aperture ~~the portion of said strap passing through the aperture comprises a loop.~~

9. (previously presented) The tourniquet article of claim 5 wherein said base is substantially rigid and comprises a layered composite including a lower layer comprised of one of a non-skid fabric, a non-slip fabric and a looped end Velcro.

10. (previously presented) The tourniquet article of claim 9 wherein the layered composite includes an intermediate layer affixed to said lower layer and an upper layer affixed to said intermediate layer, said upper layer comprising a substantially rigid material.

11. (previously presented) The tourniquet article of claim 10 wherein the upper layer comprises a plastic material.

12. (previously presented) The tourniquet article of claim 10 wherein the upper layer comprises nylon scuba webbing.

13. (previously presented) The tourniquet article of claim 10 wherein the intermediate layer comprises a polypropylene webbing.

14. (cancelled)

15. (previously presented) The tourniquet article of claim 5 further comprising a handle lock attached to said base and positioned to receive an end of said handle.

16. (cancelled)

17. (previously presented) The tourniquet article of claim 15 wherein the handle lock includes a ring movably attached to said base.

18-20 (cancelled)

21. (new) The tourniquet article of claim 5 further comprising buckle connected to said substantially rigid base, said buckle being adapted to engage said strap to secure said tourniquet in a deployed arrangement, said buckle being tapped to accept a screw to secure said strap to said base.

22. (new) A tourniquet article comprising:

an elongated handle;

a substantially rigid base underlying said elongated handle;

a strap configured to be tightened about an injured limb, said strap being engaged with said handle and being engaged with said substantially rigid base at i) a first point upstream from said handle and ii) at a second point downstream from said handle such that said substantially rigid base is maintained in underlying relationship to said handle thereby reducing binding of said substantially rigid base when said handle is twisted.

23. (new) A tourniquet article comprising:

an elongated handle;

a substantially rigid base;

a strap disposed contiguous to said base and in communication with said handle;

a structural member fixedly attached to said base, said strap being disposed between at least portion of said structural member and said base to minimize twisting of said strap.

24. (new) The tourniquet article of claim 23 wherein said structural member includes a cap.